

AWAIT WORD ON IMPENDING CUBAN RANSOM

Deal Is Reported to Be On

BY JULES DUBOIS

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Miami, Oct. 7.—Cuban exiles awaited word today from Havana that the more than 1,000 Bay of Pigs prisoners will have been ransomed for 62 million dollars from the prisons of Premier Fidel Castro's communist Cuba.

"Everything is proceeding well," a member of the Cuban Families committee said today. "We are on a stand-by status, awaiting notification that our boys have been freed. We expect to get word tomorrow."

United Press International quoted informed sources in Miami as saying that the Cuban prisoners will be freed today or Tuesday and will leave Cuba immediately afterward.

James B. Donovan, New York attorney and Democratic candidate for United States senator, is scheduled to confer with Castro again tomorrow to conclude details of the ransom. The details are believed to involve the dates and methods of delivery of the 62 million dollars equivalent value in food and medicine that Castro has agreed to accept in lieu of cash.

Plan of Transfer

Families of the prisoners were further encouraged by conflicting reports that their sons may have been transferred to the Castillo del Principe prison in Havana. The reports could not be confirmed here.

Doctor Jose Miro-Cardona, president of the Cuban Revolutionary council said today that as far as he knows his son Jose Miro-Torra was still a prisoner in the Isle of Pines penitentiary.

He said he based this on reports brought by his niece, who arrived from Havana on Friday. The niece could not confirm that the captives had been transferred to the Havana prison, but she did confirm that relatives had been requested by the authorities to furnish trousers and yellow T-shirts for the prisoners.

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Miro also said that he expects Castro to make propaganda capital of the liberation of the prisoners in conjunction with President Osvaldo Dorticos' scheduled attack against the United States in his speech in the United Nations tomorrow. All Havana television and radio stations have announced that they will broadcast Dorticos' speech live from New York.

Visit in Chicago

Miro said he is scheduled to visit Chicago Oct. 12. He will fly there to make a speech and to observe the start of the recruiting of Cubans in Chicago into the United States army, he said.

The trip to Chicago is now contingent on the pending arrival of the prisoners, he said. "Nobody has said anything to me about the release of the prisoners," Miro said. "Somebody will have to tell me about their release when it is agreed upon. Neither have I been informed of any details of the deal that Donovan is making with Castro."

The Donovan negotiations are being conducted in his private capacity as attorney for the Cuban Families committee, which is divorced from the Cuban Revolutionary council.

Returns to Miami

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct. 7 (UPI)—James B. Donovan, New York attorney who has been negotiating with Premier Fidel Castro for the release of 1,113 Cuban invaders, flew to Miami today, informed sources reported.

The sources said that Donovan was making a "quick trip," apparently to confer with family committees that have been trying to obtain freedom of the Cubans.

No reason was given here for the flight to Miami, but there were no reports that the negotiations with Castro might have hit a snag.

"The negotiations are still on. Nothing happened that might hamper them," the sources said.

Donovan, who last year negotiated the release of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers from Russia, in exchange for Russian spy Rudolf Abel, came to Havana last Wednesday.

He met with Castro for seven

hours Friday night at the home of an intermediary in the negotiations, Mrs. Berta Barreto. Yesterday, Mrs. Barreto said she was "very optimistic" that agreement will be reached.

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